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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/975,756	10/10/2001	Yelena Loginova	967.061US1	2366

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EXAMINER

SHARAREH, SHAHNAH J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1617	

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/975,756	LOGINOVA ET AL.
	Examiner Shahnam Sharareh	Art Unit 1617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-19 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-19 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I in Paper No. 5 is acknowledged.

Applicant's election of species directed to cosmetic gel and ethyl/acrylate/methylacrylate copolymers are also acknowledged. Accordingly, claims 1-12, 14-19 are under consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-12, 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "ingredient on the basis of organic solvents in the presence of an emulsifier" which renders the claim indefinite. It is not clear what is the relationship between this element and other elements of the claim.

The recitation of "derivatives" in claim 1 and 15 renders the claims vague, because it is not clear to which derivative is applicant referring? The specification further fails to specify the scope of said term. Thus, the metes and bounds of the claim is ambiguous.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-12, 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Karlen et al US Patent 6,190,647.

Karlen discloses cosmetic gels comprising a film forming agent of homo- or copolymers of acrylate derivatives such as acrylic or methacrylic acid/acrylic or methacrylic acid polyethosyalkyl esters, acrylates/stearth-20 methacrylate copolymers trademark as Acrysol, Aculyn; Steareth-10-aaryl ether/acrylate copolymers trademarked as Salcare, etc.. in amounts of about 60-80% wt (col 2, lines 1-15; claims 1, 6-8). The cosmetic gel can further contain a non-ionic surfactant compound in amounts of at least 0.25% (col 2, lines 24-50, 63-67, examples 4-7). Karlen's formulation can also contain a volatile silicone derivatives, hydrocarbon solvents such

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as isododecane, isoparaffin, etc (col 4, lines 46-67; examples 1-8, 14). Accordingly, Karlen anticipates the limitation of the instant claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-12, 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samain et al US Patent 6,524,596 in view of Karlen US Patent 6,190,647.

Samain teaches the use of methacrylic acid/acrylic acid/ethyl acrylate/methacrylate copolymers such as Amerhold DR 25, a silicone oil, and hydrocarbon solvents such as isoparaffins, dodecane or mixtures thereof (see abstract, col 2, lines 16-25; col 4, lines 42-66 col 6, line 40). The formulation of Samain can be in gel form (col 8, lines 26-30). Samain also teaches the use of surfactant as needed (col 5, lines 5-7). Samain does not teach the use of non-ionic surfactants in his compositions.

Karlen teaches the use of non-ionic surfactants in cosmetic gels in amounts of at least 0.25% (col 2, lines 24-50, 63-67, examples 4-7) with acrylate derivative film forming agents.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the gel formulations of Samain to contain a non-ionic surfactant of choice such as a stearath or a ceteareth, because the ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success in providing a more stable topical gel formulation.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-12, 14-19 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,523,565. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because they overlap in scope.

Both sets of claims are directed to cosmetic gel compositions comprising an acrylate derivative, a non-ionic surfactant and water. In fact the polymeric moiety used in the patented claims are identical as the instantly claimed species (see patented claim 9). Further, the patented claims appear to anticipate the scope of pending claims as they contain all elements of the instant claims. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to practice the claimed invention having the patented claims in possession.

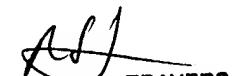
Conclusion

No claims are allowed. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shahnam Sharareh whose telephone number is 703-306-5400. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreenivasan Padmanabhan, PhD can be reached on 703-308-1877. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4556 for regular communications and 703-308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1123.

ss
April 19, 2003


RUSSELL TRAVERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1200